

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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FOLL REPEAT STATE 142616 ACTION LONDON 18 JUN 75:

QUOTE

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TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR SUPPLIERS MEETING

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF DAVID BINDER STORY ON PAGE 1 OF
JUNE 18 NEW YORK TIMES: DATE LINE WASHINGTON JUNE 17.

QUOTE: SIX COUNTRIES THAT EXPORT NUCLEAR EQUIPMENT WILL
OPEN A SECRET CONFERENCE IN LONDON TOMORROW TO DISCUSS
POSSIBLE MEANS OF CONTROLLING SALES AND DEVELOPING SAFE-
GUARDS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ATOMIC WEAPONS. WESTERN
EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS SAID TODAY.

THE COUNTRIES TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE MEETING, THE
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SECOND IN SEVEN WEEKS, ARE THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN,
THE SOVIET UNION, WEST GERMANY, FRANCE AND CANADA.

JAPAN AND ITALY ARE TO BE 'TECHNICALLY' REPRESENTED AS
COUNTRIES THAT ARE ON THE THRESHOLD OF EXPORTING NUCLEAR

EQUIPMENT. BUT OTHER COUNTRIES THAT ARE ALREADY EXPORT-
ING SUCH TECHNOLOGY, FOR EXAMPLE, SWEDEN, WERE NOT
INVITED.

THE MEETINGS WERE INITIATED BY THE UNITED STATES, WHICH
HAS BECOME CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL SPREAD OF
WEAPONS-MAKING CAPABILITY THROUGH THE EXPORT OF NUCLEAR
POWER PLANTS AND FUEL-ENRICHMENT FACILITIES.

PENDING DEALS A FACTOR

UNITED STATES OFFICIALS SAID THE NEED FOR CONTROLS HAD
BEEN MADE MORE URGENT BY PENDING DEALS INVOLVING SALES
BY FRANCE AND WEST GERMANY.

FRANCE IS NEGOTIATING TO SELL NUCLEAR FUEL-REPROCESSING
PLANTS, WHICH COULD BE TURNED TO MAKING PLUTONIUM FOR
WEAPONS, TO ARGENTINA, PAKISTAN AND SOUTH KOREAN. WEST
GERMANY HAS CONTRACTED TO SELL AN ENTIRE NUCLEAR FUEL
CYCLE, INCLUDING FUEL-ENRICHMENT AND REPROCESSING
FACILITIES, TO BRAZIL.

UNITED STATES OFFICIALS DECLINED TO CONFIRM DETAILS
OF THE LONDON MEETINGS ON THE GROUND THAT THE PARTICI-
PANTS HAD AGREED ON SECRECY. THEY ADDED THAT FRANCE
AND POSSIBLY THE SOVIET UNION MIGHT WITHDRAW IF THE
CONFERENCE WAS PUBLICIZED.

ONE OFFICIAL SAID THE PARTIPATING COUNTRIES WERE ALSO
PUBLICITY-SHY BECAUSE THEY DID NOT WISH TO BE ACCUSED OF
FORMING A CARTEL OF NUCLEAR EXPORTERS.

THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS DELEGATION IS LED BY
GEORGE S. VEST, DIRECTOR OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S
BUREAU OF POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS. HE IS ACCOM-
PANIED BY CHARLES N. VAN DOREN OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND
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DISARMAMENT AGENCY.

THE UNITED STATES WOULD LIKE THE NUCLEAR EXPORT COUNTRIES
TO AGREE EVENTUALLY ON AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
ESTABLISHING SALES CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARD STANDARDS, THE
AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID.

THE LONDON MEETING WILL BE DEVOTED TO SUCH QUESTIONS AS
WHETHER TO DEMAND A PLEDGE FROM NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES
THAT THEIR PEACEFUL ATOMIC ENERGY PROGRAMS WILL NOT BE
USED TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

ANOTHER AGENDA ITEM IS DISCUSSING OF A POSSIBLE AGREE-

MENT TO PLACE FUEL-PRODUCTION CYCLES UNDER CONTROLS, ESPECIALLY IN COUNTRIES LIKE BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA, WHICH ARE NOW NOT SUBJECT TO INTERNATIONAL CONTROLS.

THE CONFEREES ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS NEWLY DEVELOPED SAFEGUARD INSTRUMENTS. THESE INCLUDE SO-CALLED FIBER OPTIC SEALS, WHICH CANNOT BE TAMPERED WITH UNDETECTED; INSTRUMENTS FOR MONITORING WHAT IS DONE WITH PLUTONIUM PRODUCED AT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS; AND

COUNTING METHODS FOR KEEPING TRACK OF PLUTONIUM OUTPUT.

THE MEETING IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO TAKE UP THE QUESTION WHETHER TO CONVENE IN A MORE FORMAL FASHION. THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK OF MEETING AGAIN IN MID-JULY IN PARIS.

THE PROBLEM OF NUCLEAR SPREAD IS ALREADY THE SUBJECT OF ATTENTION FOR COUNTRIES THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY'S SAFEGUARD SYSTEM REQUIRED BY THE 1969 TREATY TO BAN A NUCLEAR SPREAD.

THE AGENCY'S CONTROLS ARE MODEST IN SCOPE AND DEPEND MAINLY ON THE GOODWILL OF PARTICIPATING GOVERNMENTS. THE TREATY REQUIRES NON-NUCLEAR COUNTRIES TO ABSTAIN FROM ACQUIRING ATOMIC WEAPONS AND NUCLEAR COUNTRIES TO ABSTAIN FROM EXPORTING THEM.

THIS IS GOOD, AS FAR AS IT GOES, AMERICAN, SOVIET AND OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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NUCLEAR GOVERNMENTS HOLD. BUT IT HAS NO EFFECT ON THOSE COUNTRIES THAT HAVE DECLINED TO ACCEPT THE TREATY, SUCH AS INDIA, CHINA, FRANCE, BRAZIL AND ARGENTINA.

THE WESTERN EUROPEAN DIPLOMATS AND AMERICAN OFFICIALS SAID THE SOVIET UNION HAD BEEN 'VERY GOOD' ON THE CONTROLS AND SAFEGUARDS QUESTION SO FAR. THEY SAID FRANCE HAD BEEN 'DIFFICULT' IN THE PAST, BUT MORE COOPERATIVE RECENTLY.

WEST GERMANY, TOO, WAS DESCRIBED AS HAVING DISPLAYED A LIVELY INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A SET OF RULES ALTHOUGH BONN IS NOT WILLING TO GO BACK ON ITS CONTRACT WITH BRAZIL.

THE WEST GERMAN-BRAZILIAN DEAL WAS AMONG THE TOPICS DISCUSSED YESTERDAY AND TODAY BY SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER AND FOREIGN MINISTER HANS-DIETRICH GENSCHER, UNITED STATES OFFICIALS SAID. THEY ALSO TOUCHED ON THE LONDON MEETING, IT WAS SAID. UNQUOTE KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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